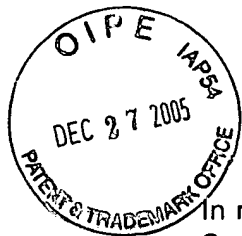


ZFW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
Stephen M. Pixley, et al.)	
)	Examiner: Waggoner, Timothy R.
Serial No. 10/791,991)	
Filed: March 2, 2004)	Art Unit: 3651
)	
For: <u>TOOL VENDING MACHINE</u>)	Date: December 20, 2005
<u>AND METHOD THEREFORE</u>)	

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office action of December 5, 2005.

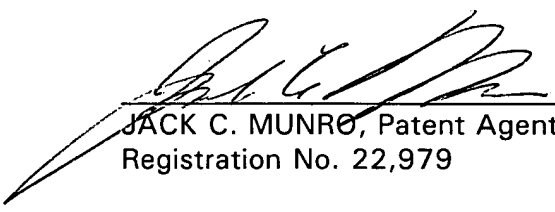
In response to the Examiner's request for further information, enclosed please find a brochure entitled AUTOCRIB that is directed to the subject invention. This brochure was printed in 2004. Also, enclosed are copies of articles which were published that reference the subject invention.

The Examiner has stated in the communication of December 5, 2005 that the "period for reply set forth in the prior office action has expired". The period for reply in the prior office action doesn't expire until January 13, 2006, so stating that the time period had expired is not understood. It is now believed that the reply filed on November 18, 2005 is fully responsive to the office action dated October 13, 2005 due to the submitting of this additional information.

Amendment to TOOL VENDING MACHINES AND METHOD THEREFORE
Stephen M. Pixley, et al., inventors
Serial No. 10/791,991
Filed March 2, 2004
Page 2 of 2

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which
may be required, or credit any overpayment to account No. 13-4899.

Respectfully submitted,



JACK C. MUNRO, Patent Agent
Registration No. 22,979

28720 Roadside Drive - Suite 225
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
phone: (818) 991-1687
fax: (818) 889-0116

Technology UPDATE

AutoCrib rolls out its Model C

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIF. — AutoCrib, Inc. released its latest version of the RoboCrib carousel system. The new Model "C" provides distributors and end users with improvements that make it more flexible and easier to use.

The model features a new door assembly, including a movable baffle as well as more robust latches. This allows for greater flexibility when configuring the bins for each customer's unique needs. No longer does RoboCrib have the same bin size on each of its 15 levels due to the static door baffle.

"Not only does the Model "C" provide a perfect fit for a customer's specific needs, it also reduces field bin re-configuration time by over 90 percent," says Bruce Weaver, vice president of sales and marketing. "This is such an impor-

tant feature as the rate of change in manufacturing continues to accelerate, so does the need to add more bins of a specific size."

Improve planning with your suppliers

DENVER — New production and distribution planning software helps companies detect and resolve operational issues in real-time before they hurt the bottom line.

J.D. Edwards & Co. added new supply chain event management capabilities for its PDP solution. That means offering multi-dimensional communication between suppliers, customers and trade partners and instantaneous response tools that allow managers to modify production and distribution plans as necessary to accommodate changing business conditions.

The PDP solution is part of the J.D.

Edwards 5 product family, which creates optimal supply chain plans based simultaneously on distribution, manufacturing, sourcing constraints and costs.

Motion Industries' parent picks fleet tools

ATLANTA — Motion Industries' parent company, Genuine Parts Co., selected A.MAZE software to improve efficiency and fleet management among its North American distribution centers.

The solution by GEOCOM optimizes routing and scheduling of fleet operations, and can also rationalize fleet assets, reduce the number of distribution centers and maximize efficiency. The software provides real-time feedback and response through its wireless gateway, which allows companies to constantly re-schedule their routes throughout the day.

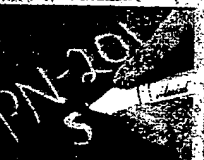
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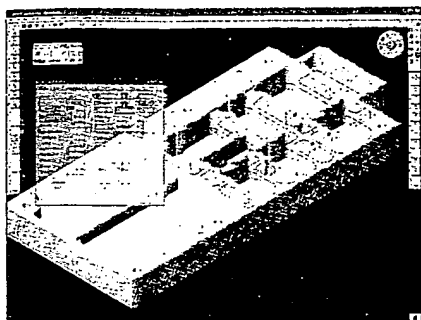
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LA-CO Industries, Inc.

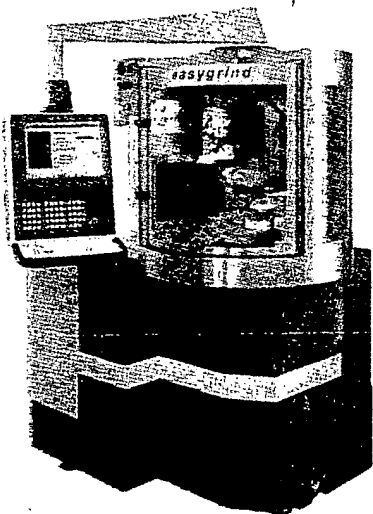
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CAM software

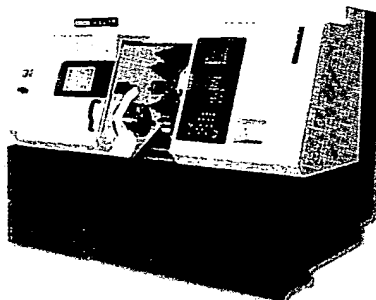
GibbsCAM 2004 CAM software includes a 2.5D Solids function and an automatic feature recognition capability that has been integrated with the Hole Wizard, streamlining the specification and generation of holmaking processes. The new option also introduces advanced 2.5D milling and turning machining functionalities, such as the ability to interactively machine solids directly. The graphical user interface has Windows-enabled enhancements, such as standard independent Windows dialogs and dialog controls supporting user control of transparency, snap alignment, and roll-up. Gibbs and Associates, Booth 3268, www.rsleads.com/403tp-229



PCD/PCBN grinding

The 4-axis CNC Easygrind tool grinding machine is for polycrystalline diamond (PCD) and polycrystalline boron nitride (PCBN) tools and inserts. The machine allows the user to define how much pressure is required between grinding wheel face and the cutting edge of the indexable insert to be ground. When the pre-set pressure value reaches a high level, the grinding wheel is automatically regenerated,

lowering the pressure to a pre-set value. Grinding wheelhead X-axis stroke is 230 mm with a resolution of 0.0001 mm. United Grinding Technologies, Booth 3800, www.rsleads.com/403tp-206

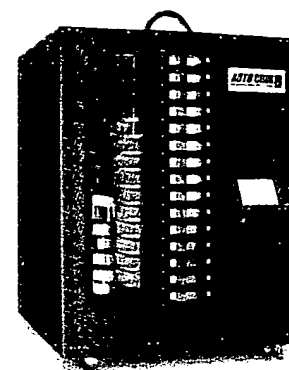


Multi-tasking

The Nexus QTN-250MS multi-tasking machine features advanced integral spindle/motor technology (35 hp, 4,000 rpm) on the main turning spindle (10" chuck) for high-speed cutting of aluminum and non-ferrous materials. The second spindle has a 6" chuck size, 10-hp output, and 6,000 rpm maximum spindle speed. An additional rotary tool spindle has 7.5 hp output and 4,500 rpm maximum speed. Rotary tools and turning tools can be mounted at any position of the 12-station drum turret, and quick-change toolholders can be loaded or unloaded with a single turn of a wrench. Mazak, Booth 2900, www.rsleads.com/403tp-262

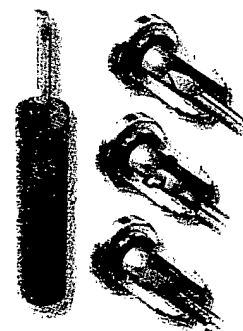
Cutting fluids

The TRI-Logic range of products consists of three elements: Maximum Life cutting fluids, a machine slideway lubricant, and a tapping fluid. Cutting fluids include ML, a multi-purpose product; EP, an extreme pressure product; ALX, a heavy-duty cutting fluid for roll tapping; and FE, a multi-purpose cutting and grinding fluid for ferrous materials. VG68 slideway oil is formulated to resist microbial attack and reinforces the anti-microbial properties of the cutting fluid. RTD tapping fluid mixes into the cutting fluid, improving its performance. ITW Rocol North America, Booth 2126, www.rsleads.com/403tp-213



Inventory control

The AutoCrib 2000 inventory control system is based on a series of counter rotating carousels that provide access to over 2,500 items through one of 15 automated doors in less than ten seconds. Items are delivered by individual pie-shaped bin sizes that vary from 2"x3"x4" high to a full 12" circular tray. Its circular trays are available in 1/12, 1/6, 1/4, 1/2, and full pie configurations. The system dispenses large or delicate items that are not easily dispensed from traditional point-of-use systems while eliminating the need for individual repackaging. AutoCrib Inc., Booth 2900, www.rsleads.com/403tp-263



Internal threading, grooving

CoroTurn XS tooling is designed for internal turning, grooving, and threading of small parts machining. This new CoroTurn line features four sizes, CXS-04, -05, -06 and -07, each including inserts for a range of hole diameters and available in different lengths. These inserts fit into boring bars designed with internal cutting fluid supply, directed at the cutting edge via two nozzles to ensure chip evacuation and sufficient cooling. Boring bars range from 10 to 25.4 mm diameter. Sandvik Coromant, Booth 3816, www.rsleads.com/403tp-226

built unit. Initially, we rebuilt these spindles with seals that closely matched the original manufacturer design, but the life of each rebuild was not good. There were some spindles that failed, from bearing contamination, within weeks of being rebuilt. It was frustrating and expensive."

One German company's new spindle seemed to do the trick, but ended up lasting only 6 months before failing. Peerless was becoming desperate for a solution.

Enter Setco Sales Co. The Cincinnati-based manufacturer and rebuilder of precision spindles and slides happened to have the remedy. According to Bob Hodge, Setco's vice president of engineering and development, "We are ready to release our Universal AirShield and the Peerless application is just the right opportunity to show the reliability of the AirShield. The maintenance record at Peerless

proved the existing labyrinth seal design was not doing the job."

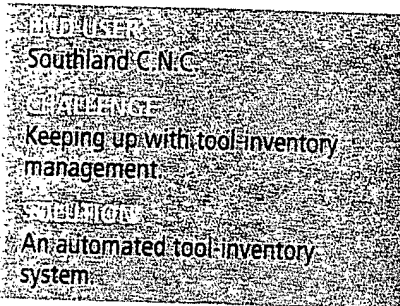
The "self-contained" AirShield is a retrofitable cartridge seal for problem applications like Peerless was experiencing. In addition, the air-purge seal uses regulated air pressure and a flexible lip seal to prevent coolant and contaminants from entering the spindle.

It has been 3 years since Peerless first installed an AirShield on a failing grinder, which is still running without any contamination issues. Gase said: "Our investment to retrofit our spindle with the Universal AirShield has saved us thousands of dollars in spindle rebuilds and reduced our maintenance costs, while increasing productivity. Since that time, several other machines were retrofitted with AirShields and not one has failed. I am sure we eventually will have all nine of our grinders operating with the AirShield spindle seals."

Tool tracking

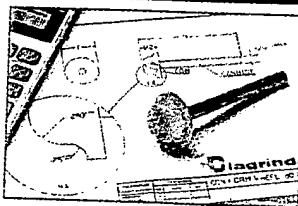
No matter the size of the shop, keeping track of cutting tools and accessories can be time-consuming. To keep track of its tooling inventory, Southland C.N.C., Cornelia, Ga., relies on an automated inventory system because it is a full-time job.

Southland manufactures an assortment of aluminum and cast iron parts, from concept through engineering to



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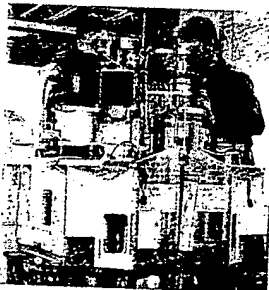
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Information Services #36

productive times

full production. The company serves a range of markets, but mainly automotive. It has about 30 employees.

Southland did not have a good inventory system. "We were having to keep up with the inventory ourselves," said Tyson McElroy, shop manager. "We had different people ordering tools and they were spread all over the shop. A lot of times, we'd have to order stuff and have it sent next-day air, which got kind of expensive."

In an effort to improve its inventory system, Southland took the step of purchasing a RoboCrib 1000 from AutoCrib

Inc., Huntington Beach, Calif.

Since implementing the RoboCrib, "we've had a lot less tool outages," said McElroy. "It saves us money on freight and saves us time because we don't have to manage the inventory ourselves."

The RoboCrib system notifies Southland's supplier, Cutting Tools & Service, Buford, Ga., when a certain type of tool is running low. Southland sets a minimum quantity, and once that quantity is reached, the system sends an e-mail to the supplier, who comes and restocks the item.

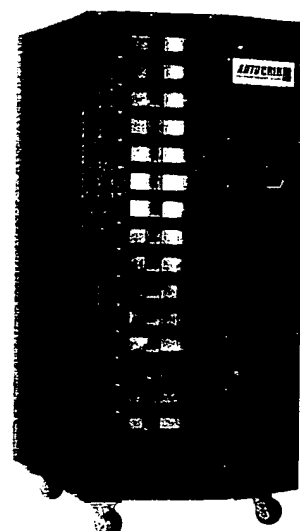
McElroy finds the report features helpful as well. He can pull up costs per job, costs per machine and even costs per operator. "This makes the operators accountable for what they take out of the RoboCrib," said McElroy. Trend charts showing what Southland used last month vs. this month are also available.

McElroy added that another feature he likes is that AutoCrib provides custom reports. "When you buy the system, they offer you two free custom reports," he said. "We provide the data and they create the report."

The RoboCrib can be set up so access is only given to a particular person or for specific items, such as tools only the setup people should have. Southland, though, gives full access to all its operators.

The system holds about 1,000 items. A series of counter-rotating carousels provide access through one of 15 automated doors in less than 10 seconds. About 30 percent of the products Southland keeps in the RoboCrib are cutting tools. The rest are accessories and safety products.

The RoboCrib also allowed Southland to take stock of what tools it wasn't using. "We looked at what we are not using and we created space for new tools," said McElroy. Δ



The RoboCrib 1000 allowed Southland to improve its tool inventory system, saving time and money.

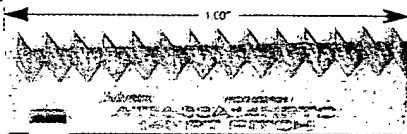


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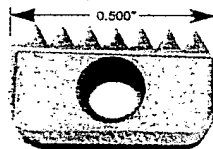
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